



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: 23 January 2006
EXPIRATION DATE: 21 February 2006
REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2005-1658-V
WATERWAY: Thorne Bay

**** AFTER-THE-FACT ****

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Mr. William B. Martin, Sonny's Skookum SE Adventures, PO Box 19151, Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919.

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ section 36, T. 71 S., R. 84 E., Copper River Meridian, Latitude 55.6711° N., Longitude -132.4744° W.; Clarence Strait, near Thorne Bay, Alaska (Fig. 1/2).

PURPOSE: The project purpose is to retain barge moorage at the existing site to serve as a lodge for fishing and guiding business.

WORK: The applicant proposes to retain a moored 110-foot long by 37-foot wide steel hull barge (Fig. 2/2) at its current location. The barge is secured by two 10,000 pound anchors and two 5,000 pound anchors.

PROPOSED UPDATES TO THIS PROJECT: The existing wastewater discharge would be updated to include an air agitated septic tank. A 20-foot wide by 50 foot long rectangular float (made of 24-inch diameter plastic PVC tubing with pressure treated wood decking) would be placed along the northeastern side of the barge for airplane passenger offloading and boat parking (Fig. 2/2). A 12-foot wide by 36-foot long float (made of 24-inch diameter plastic PVC tubing with pressure treated wood decking) would be placed along the southwestern side of the barge to serve as a fish cleaning station and skiff parking (Fig. 2/2). There would be a wastewater discharge, involving a 3-inch diameter pipe approximately 10 feet long.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant states that the barge does not ground at any tidal stage. At the Mean Low Lower Water (MLLW -4.2 feet), the barge has approximately 14 feet of water beneath.

MITIGATION: None proposed.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify that the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone

complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Office of Project Management and Permitting, Department of Natural Resources has concurred with the applicant's certification.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Engineer during the public comment period.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and the Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), listed as endangered and threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), respectively. Preliminarily, it has been determined that the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the ESA of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the

proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Carlos Paez at (907) 753-2712, by email at carlos.e.paez@poa02.usace.army.mil, or toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712 if further information is desired concerning this notice.

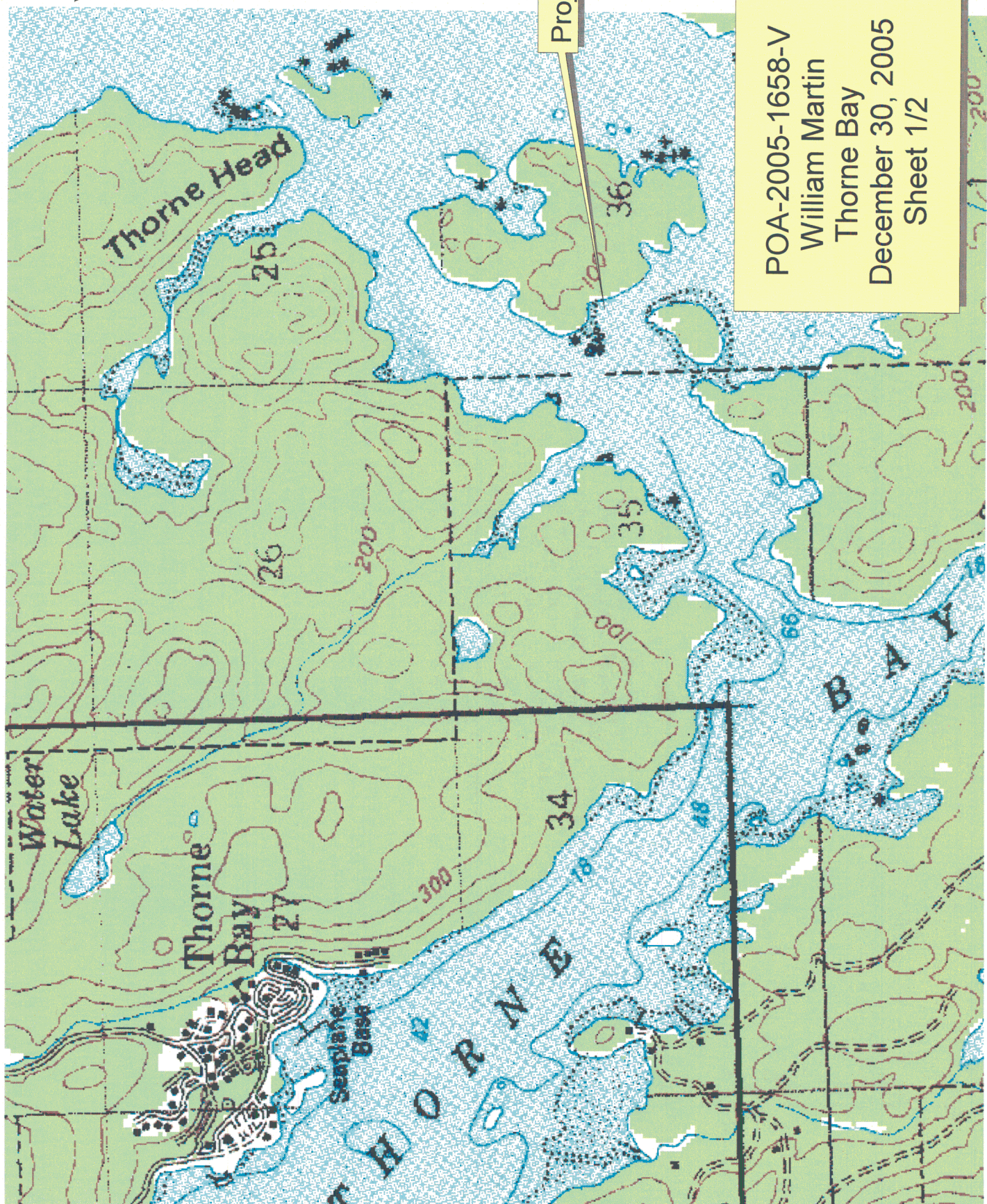
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States - Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

A plan and a Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

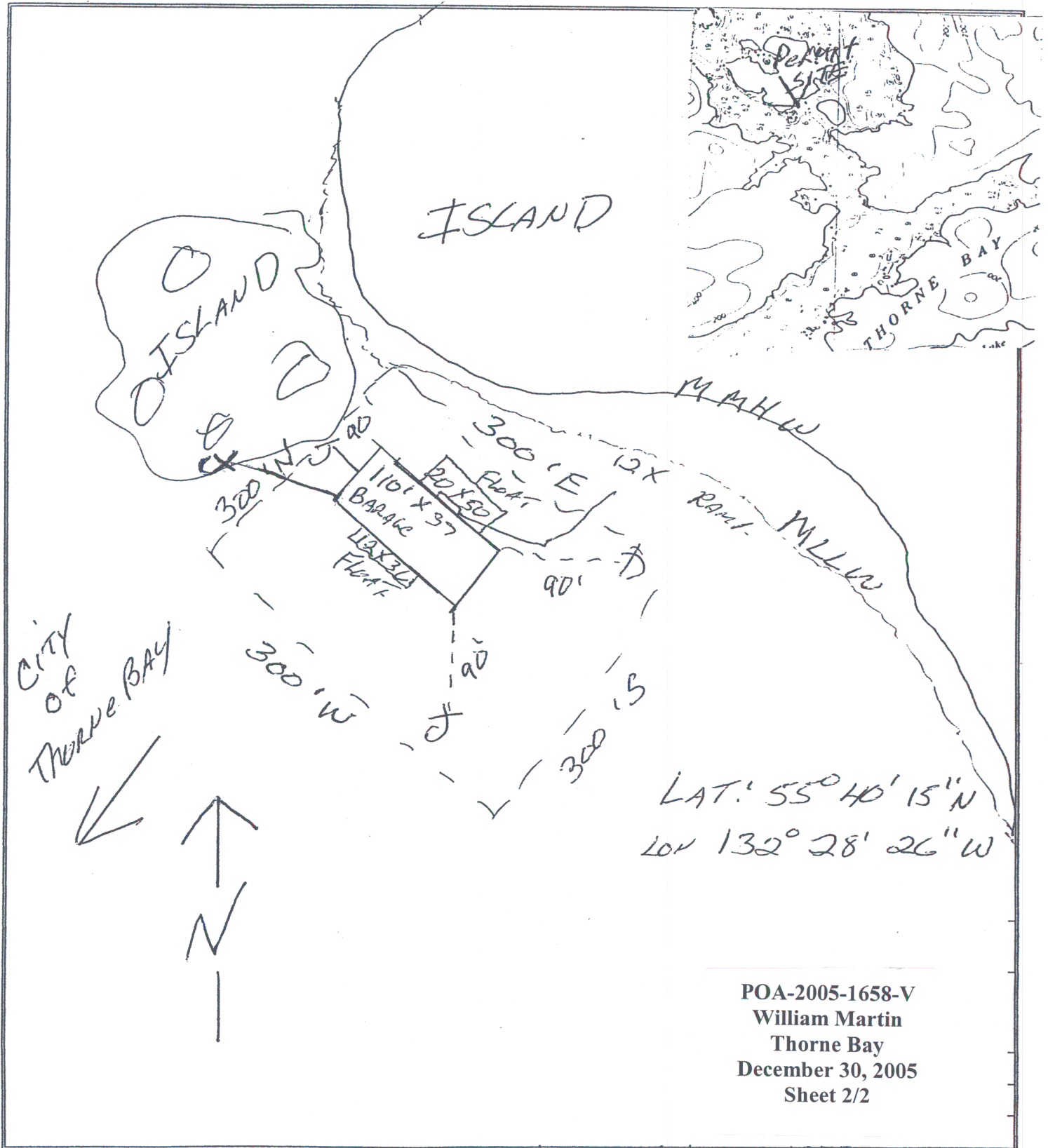
Attachments



Project Area

POA-2005-1658-V
William Martin
Thorne Bay
December 30, 2005
Sheet 1/2

SITE DEVELOPMENT DIAGRAM



FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING**

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING
302 GOLD STREET, SUITE 202
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1127
PHONE: (907) 465-3562/FAX: (907) 465-3075

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE
ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. **POA-2005-1658-V, Thorne Bay**, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

This project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Written comments about the consistency of the project with the applicable ACMP statewide standards and district policies must be submitted to the Office of Project Management and Permitting. For information about this consistency review, contact OPMP at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the ACMP web site at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html>.